

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

August 10, 2025 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



ELCA

PRELUDE “Give Me Jesus” setting, Rachel Trelstad Porter

The Holy Spirit calls and gathers us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin. Merciful God,
**you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and
follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround
us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in
doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on
us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God’s children through
faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy
Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new
creation.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG “As We Gather At Your Table”

Red Hymnal #522



- 1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
- 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
- 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

Refrain

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way. Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

Verses

- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2 That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3 For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4 For your spirit to guide;
that you center our lives in the water and the word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE

"Glorify Thy Name"

Father we love You, We worship and adore You.

(Chorus)

Glorify Thy name in all the earth
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Jesus, we love You, we worship and adore You. (Chorus)

Spirit, we love You, we worship and adore You. (Chorus)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING Genesis 15:1-6

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 33:12-22

(Congregation reads the bold)

¹² Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God’s heritage!

¹³ **The LORD looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴ God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵ **God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶ A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷ **The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹ **to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

²⁰ Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,
our helper and our shield.

²¹ **Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

²² Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." ¹³ All of these died in

faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth,¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Wind of the Spirit”

Wind of the Spirit, move fresh as we worship
and fill us with hope ev’ry day. Breath of creation,
blow life in our being, and gift us with purpose, we pray;
so our life is filled with meaning, and love is what we’re breathing
in the wind of the Spirit, wind of the Spirit.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 12th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

[Jesus said:]³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.³⁵ “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them

so, blessed are those slaves.³⁹ “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG “Have No Fear, Little Flock” Red Hymnal #764



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING “Nearer, My God, to Thee” setting, Ann Buys

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is by the prayer table.

You can also go online at www.zionrockford.com or you can click on the QR code.



TABLE BLESSING

“We Eat the Bread of Teaching”

Red Hymnal #518

Refrain

We eat the bread of teaching, drink wine of wisdom,
are given here a taste of the kingdom.

Together joined, the greatest and the least,
we all are one at Wisdom's holy feast.

1 Wisdom calls throughout the city, knows our hunger, and in pity
gives her loving invitation to the banquet of salvation. *Refrain*

2 Simple ones whose hearts are yearning,
come and gain from Wisdom's learning; bread and wine she is preparing,
know her loving in the sharing. *Refrain*

3 Enter with delight and singing, for her richness now is bringing
us this joyful celebration; eat and drink in jubilation. *Refrain*

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Please come forward for communion today up front. Receive the wafer with an open hand.

The cups of wine are red and juice is in the center and the juice is clear.

There are individual communion cups at the prayer table. Dispose of them in the lobby.

COMMUNION SONGS "I Am The Bread of Life" Red Hymnal #485

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger,
and who believe in me shall not thirst.

No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

Refrain: "And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."

2 "The bread that I will give, is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever, you shall live forever." Refrain

3 "Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood,
you shall not have life within you." Refrain

4 "I am the resurrection, I am the life. If you believe in me,
even though you die, you shall live forever." Refrain

5 Yes, Lord, I believe, that you are the Christ, the Son of God,
who have come into the world. Refrain

"On Bread, One Body" Red Hymnal #496

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. *Refrain*

2 Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*

3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. *Refrain*

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world. Through Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✝ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING SONG "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" Red Hymnal #632

1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

SENDING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“In Heaven Above” setting, Anne Krentz Organ

WORSHIP LEADERS

Would you like to be a Communion Assistant, Reader, Sound, Usher, Greeter or Worship Host? You could have the assignment on the first, second, third or fourth Sunday of each month at the 9:15am worship service. Please talk with Pastor or let the church office know if you are available, interested or have a question.

WOMEN OF ZION

During the month of August we are requesting donations of **Pancake Mix and syrup** for distribution at the Cornucopia Food Pantry. There is a great need for these items! A grocery cart is in the Narthex for donations, or you can bring them to the church office. You can donate to Cornucopia on our church website and we pass along the donation to the pantry organization. -Thanks so much!

The WOZ board

Outdoor Farmers Market



Thursdays: June 5–September 25, 2025
502 Seventh Street, Rockford IL

Cars & Coffee - Rockford

2025 EVENTS

- APRIL 5
- MAY 3
- JUNE 14
- JULY 5
- AUGUST 2
- SEPTEMBER 6
- OCTOBER 4

TINT WORLD
AUTOMOTIVE STYLING CENTERS
2024 SPONSOR

Rooftop Reflections

Join Pastor Mike & Zion Lutheran Church
August 20, 2025 at 4:00pm
Embassy Suites Rooftop





Women of the ELCA

2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESCUE, REDEEM, RESTORE

“Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”
- Psalm 82:4

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Registration and Coffee at 8:00 am
First Lutheran Church
225 South 3rd St, Rockford

WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE

<https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford>

www.youtube.com/zionrockford

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* Pattern of Worship—resource from ELW pages 91-93

^ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>

PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:



- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Student Pastor Rachel Perkins, Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner, the Zion Church Council, Pastor Caleb Uk of the Burmese congregation; the Zion Staff, Zion Outreach Board, Staff and Programs of Patriots Gateway Center, Katie's Cup and Zion Development Corporation.
- ◇ Pastor Cosmas Mujungu of Sepuka Parish (Tanzania)
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Pastor Mytch Dorvilier in Senegal.
- ◇ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches; Midtown Lutheran Parish, faculty and students of Rockford Lutheran Schools, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries.
- ◇ For those who grieve the loss of loved ones: family of Sonita Simmons, family of Phyllis Mott.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Ruth Dahlberg, Danielle, Jim McDowell, Neal Tolodxi, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Carl Stoutenberg, Sandy Swenson, Jeanne Thomas, Brian Veitch, and Mary Wedel, Gary Wegner, Jr.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Student Pastor Rachel. The prayer room is upstairs to the left of the sanctuary and is available during office hours and on Sunday before and after worship services.

WORSHIP LEADER'S TODAY

Communion Asst.	Laurie Pellant
Fellowship:	In Honor of Pastor Jerry & Lois Peterson— 67th wedding anniversary & 64th ordination anniversary
Music:	Jodi Beach
Reader:	Debbie Raymond
Sound:	Deangelo Brunson
Usher:	Charlie Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Forum: Pastor Uk discussing the Burmese Ministry
	10:15am	Fellowship in Honor of the Peterson's
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room
	2:00pm	Pastor Leslie Aska Ordination—First Lutheran Church, Rockford
Tuesday	9:00am	Worship Team
	11:00am	Memorial Team
	1:00pm	Multicultural Team
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	5:00pm	Church Council Picnic—Tom Habing's home
Thursday	9:00am	Rockford Midtown Market—Katie's Cup
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room

UPCOMING

August 20	4:00pm	Rooftop Reflections—Embassy Suites Rooftop
September 6	9:00am	Cars & Coffee Rockford
September 18	5:00pm	Patriot's Pub Night—Ernie's
September 20		NIS WELCA Fall Leaders Conference
October 10-12		Fall Faith Festival—Zion
October 23	10:00am	Synod Event for Retired Pastors Brunch—Fellowship Hall